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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) A method for programming point of sale devices comprising:

receiving a programming request for a point of sale device;

determining which of two or more proprietary operating systems is used by the point of sale device; and

transmitting the programming request to the point of sale device based on the proprietary operating system used by the point of sale device;

wherein transmitting the programming request to the point of sale device based on the proprietary operating system used by the point of sale device further comprises:

determining that a change in a business entity has occurred for a point of sale device;

selecting a template for the point of sale device;

determining whether to modify the template to include changing a telephone number for the point of sale device based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include changing a list of allowable cards based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include changing a merchant number based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include changing an address based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include enabling program modules based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include disabling program modules based on the change in business entity;

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determining whether to modify the template to include enabling loyalty card programs based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include disabling loyalty card programs based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include enabling frequent buyer card features based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include disabling frequent buyer card features based on the change in business entity;

determining whether to modify the template to include modifying authorization host features in response to call swipes based on the change in business entity; and

determining whether to modify the template to include modifying credit card reversal of transaction features based on the change in business entity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein receiving the programming request for the point of sale device comprises receiving a device setup command from the point of sale device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein receiving the programming request for the point of sale device comprises receiving a device update command from the point of sale device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein receiving the programming request for the point of sale device comprises receiving a polling command from a device update controller.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein determining which of two or more proprietary operating systems is used by the point of sale device comprises retrieving a file associated with the point of sale device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein transmitting the programming request to the point of sale device based on the operating system comprises transmitting the

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programming request over a public switched telephone network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein transmitting the programming request to the point of sale device based on the operating system comprises transmitting the programming request over an Internet.

17. (Currently amended) A method for managing a plurality of point-of-sale devices comprising:

storing a file for each of a plurality of operating systems, where any of the operating systems can be associated with one or more of each point of sale device, each file containing device operating commands;

retrieving one of the files in response to a programming request for a corresponding device after an operating system for the corresponding device has been determined; and

transmitting the file to the corresponding device;

wherein storing the file for each of a plurality of operating systems comprises:

creating two or more classes of files for the point of sale devices based upon the proprietary operating systems used by the point of sale devices;

creating at least one class of rules for the point of sale devices based upon the users of the point of sale devices;

applying the class of rules to the two or more classes of files; and

storing each file for each point of sale device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein retrieving one of the files in response to the programming request for the corresponding device comprises:

extracting a point of sale device identifier from the programming request;

locating a data file associated with the point of sale device identifier; and

retrieving the data file.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein retrieving one of the files in response to the programming request for the corresponding device further comprises receiving the programming request from the point of sale device.

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21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein transmitting the programming request to the point of sale device based on the proprietary operating system used by the point of sale device further comprises:

selecting a template for the point of sale device; and
imposing configuration constraints on the templates based upon a type of credit card that is used at the point of sale device.

Claim 22 (cancelled).

23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein receiving the programming request for the point of sale device comprises receiving a device setup command from the point of sale device.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein receiving the programming request for the point of sale device comprises receiving a device update command from the point of sale device.

25. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein receiving the programming request for the point of sale device comprises receiving a polling command from a device update controller.

26. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein transmitting the file to the corresponding device comprises transmitting the file over a public switched telephone network.

27. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein transmitting the file to the corresponding device comprises transmitting the programming request over an Internet.